Czechs run riot in NSW — P.5

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WORLD CUP BID STARTS AGAINST KIWIS

— By Andrew Dettre —

Australia's World Cup program will start on April 26, 1981, against New Zealand, probably in Auckland.

The draw was made this week in Sydney with delegates of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Indonesia attending, under the chairmanship of ASF president Sir Arthur George.

Taiwan did not send a representative but has agreed to accept a majority decision.

New Zealand and Fiji will play their away matches in the group during one tour.

The winner of the round-robin will progress to the semifinals of the Asia-Oceania zone, where matches will have to be completed by November 30, 1981.

These are the 1981 match dates in our sub-group, with the first named country the host (actual city venues to be chosen later):

April 26: New Zealand v Australia
May 3: Fiji v New Zealand
May 7: Taiwan v New Zealand
May 13: Indonesia v New Zealand
May 16: Australia v New Zealand
May 20: Australia v Indonesia
May 24: New Zealand v Indonesia
May 31: Fiji v Indonesia
July 26: Fiji v Australia
August 6: Taiwan v Fiji
August 10: Indonesia v Fiji
August 14: Australia v Fiji
August 17: New Zealand v Fiji
August 25: Taiwan v Australia
August 30:Indonesia v Australia

(The dates for the remaining five games have yet to be fixed.)

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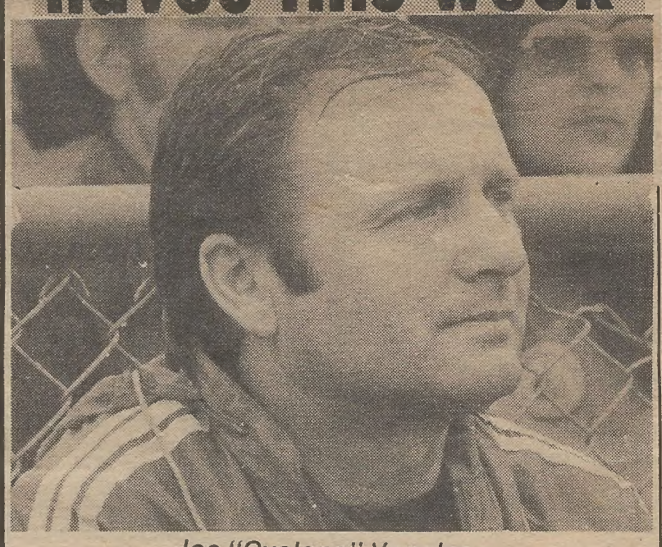
Cyclone Joe to cause more havoc this week



Joe "Cyclone" Venglos

You'd better bolt down your house and lock up your valuables: Cyclone Joe, having mercifully left NSW, is about to unleash its fury on Adelaide and Melbourne.

Joe, of course, travels in the seemingly gentle disguise of Dr. Joseph Venglos and his marauding Czechs, causing havoc and destruction in their path.

Their first three matches have proved that the Czechoslovaks are woefully beyond our reach; the Adelaide (Wednesday) and Melbourne (Sunday) matches will bear this out further.

Venglos, using the Australian trip to lick his Czech mates into European Championship form, is unlikely to permit any slackness in this week's finale.

Against South Australia, several of the "reserves" are likely to get a run — but "reserve" is clearly a euphemism when dealing with a squad of such accomplished players.

Is European champion Dobias a reserve? Or perhaps the Brazilian-styled winger wizard Vizek? That goal-hungry striker Kroupa or that brilliant all-rounder Vojacek?

Any self-respecting PSL president would be willing to swap his house and youngest daughter for these stars representing a class of soccer we can only dream about.

The pattern in the remaining two matches is likely to be the same as before: Czechoslovakia sparring in the first half, plotting the gaps in our armour — then, after the interval, delivering the KO punch.

One can only hope that Australia, on Sunday, will use more intelligent and practical tactics than in Sydney.

Presumably fitter now than at the beginning of the series, the Aussies should be able to run off the ball better than they did in Canberra or Sydney.

Rigid marking on its own won't stop the Czechs. Maybe nothing will — but it's worth trying a more fluid and flexible approach.

After their last game in Melbourne, the Czechoslovaks will spend two days in Sydney before flying home.

And one can only wish this disciplined, talented team every success in the European Championships in June.

Two more for the see-saw

Indonesia and China will send their national teams to Australia in March and April.

Both will play a series of internationals against the Socceroos.

However, in order not to interfere with the Philips League program, most if not all games will be played on Wednesdays and Fridays.

INSURANCE FOR BIG '81 CUP

The 1981 FIFA/Coca-Cola Youth World Cup finals in Australia will be insured for several million dollars.

Some of the risks insured against will be kidnapping of star players, the loss of TV rights and the cancellation of matches.

R.E. Bott, insurance broker, together with Allianz Insurance Co., have worked out a comprehensive policy for the ASF.

Major sporting events are often the first to suffer from political uncertainty.

Lloyds of England, for example, stand to pay out $80 million if the American team doesn't go to the Moscow Olympic and US telecasts are scrapped.

R.E. Bott and Allianz also have special insurance programs for the Philips League, the Socceroos and associations and clubs at all levels.

2 TO 6

Conducted by Val Hokin and Emmanuel Kanna

Moorebank (5th div.) are pleased to announce the re-appointment of Keith Hird as the club's first grade coach. The club's home ground has gone through a great deal of development during the off-season with two more soccer fields, three rugby league fields, a baseball diamond and cricket fields being formed, with the local council spending over $200,000. The club has been conducting their very successful fifth seven-a-side Summer Cup since November with the semifinals set down for Friday, February 8 at 6.30pm at Hammondville. They are: Moorebank (white) v Glenquarrie - Bexley v Moorebank (red). The consolation semis draw is: Fairfield West v West St.George and Hammondville Inter v Revesby Rovers. The competition has been generously sponsored by Ample Spares, Golden Fleece, Moorebank. The winner receives trophies and $150, the runner up trophies and $75. "Man of the Match" from the Cup final gets $50 and from the consolation final $25.

□ □ □

Gladesville-Ravens (2nd div.) have appointed the club's three federation coaches for 1980. First grade, John Woodford; second grade, Nigel Kaygill; third grade, Paul Slater. Training sessions have seen good attendances especially among young players. One unfortunate incident occurred when Steve Spackman fractured his leg while trying out for third grade.

□ □ □

Liverpool Rangers (6th div.) have appointed Mac Russell as first grade coach for this season. Mac has been with the club for several seasons, coaching the under-21 team in 1979. Ireland Park is the club's home ground and training is held there Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Club president is Ron Fleming with Treasurer being Kevin McGregor and Peter Panetta the registrar. The club has been negotiating for some time now, to lease part of the land at Ireland Park for a club house and hopes to see negotiations finalised this year. With strong social committee the club looks forward to many successful socials again this year. Several local businessmen have been generous with sponsorship for various teams: Bells Boys Landscapers, Aacron Florist, Cimino Bros. Service Station and Mr. Gattuso.

□ □ □

Paddington Spanish (4th div.) has appointed Audato Iglesias as coach for 1980. Iglesias who was a player-coach for the club only a couple of years ago, played for Real Madrid as goalkeeper and spent seven years with APIA as a player and also coached APIA and Marconi in the past.

□ □ □

Campbelltown City (3rd div.) is yet to have another chance of promotion to second division. The team has been in constant preparation with training and trial games, to ready itself for the play-off which begins in March. The other two clubs competing for the position in second division are West Ryde Rovers and Port Hacking. Both these clubs are fighting against relegation. The schedule for play-off is:

March 1, Port Hacking v West Ryde at Rangers Rd. 3pm
March 8, Campbelltown v West Ryde at Seymour Shaw 3pm
March 15, Campbelltown v Port Hacking at W.H.Waud 3pm

□ □ □

Are you interested in a friendly pre-season trial game? This column offers its services in arranging such games for all divisions. Contact Emmanual Kanna 662-0111 ext.432 or 50-7380.

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Stopper for Saints

St.George are likely to sign a stopper this week — and they have three candidates in mind.

The front runner is Jim Muir, from Adelaide City, an experienced former Scottish first division player.

The other two being considered are Dave McIntosh from Olympic and Keith Schumann from Sutherland.

St.George coach Raul Blanco said this week he was definitely not interested in Socceroo Tommy Cumming.

"I watched him in action a few times now and he's not what we need," he said.

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State League Preview

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

— By Paul James —

"We intend doing the best we can in the league," said Sydney Olympic's secretary Nick Smilas.

"We are in the State League to prepare for the way back to PSL, and we will go all the way to win the NSW Championship.

"We have the core of the team which played last year plus a couple of additions whom we feel wil fit into the side.

"Houssini was with us last year but wasn't able to play.

"Now we expect him to be an essential cog in our side.

"In defence Greg Ankudinoff will also be an asset.

"Admittedly the loss of Raskopoulos was a blow, but not an unexpected one.

"Ainslie and Luckett have also left, but we feel their loss won't really affect the team to a great degree.

"We are hoping that our fans will give us a chance to prove ourselves this year.

"We realise that unless we have success we won't get support, but we want the fans to show the players they are willing to give us a chance.

"Coach Jim Adam feels the squad will be stronger once Jennings and Bell recover from injuries and are right back in training," Nick said.

"From there we will plot our course in the State League, but first we will concentrate on the Ampol Cup to find our bearings," he added.

NORTH SYDNEY

"Basically, we want to do what Monaro did a couple of years ago, and what Ku-ring-gai did last year: consolidate outselves in the State League," said North Sydney Inter's secretary Archie Blue.

A former great with APIA, Archie feels the present team, coached by the equally famous Phil Bottalico, has some of the aspects of the champion APIA teams.

"Phil and I remember the great team spirit of the old days at APIA and we are trying to foster that same sort of spirit at Inter.

"The club has helped a lot of the boys with jobs, and so we have the ideal situation where the lads train, work and play football together.

"There is a great feeling of mateship amongst the players and this can be seen by the fighting qualities of the team, coming from a goal down against Avala last week to win our first Ampol Cup match," Archie said.

"Basically we have a good young team, though we are looking for a couple of experienced players to help the lads through the rough patches that we are bound to strike.

"Most of the players come from the APIA third grade of 1975 which Phil and I groomed, but which after the Wests-APIA merger was left out in the cold.

"Last year we proved ourselves and I don't think we will be disgraced this year in the State League," he said.

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE

"The single most important event that happened to us during the off season was the completion of a tie up with the Canterbury & District Junior association," said Canterbury Marrickville's secretary Lionel Brown.

"The club needed a base for future development, and we worked hard to get the support of the Association.

"Now we have over 4,500 boys to draw upon for Federation teams.

"It wasn't a one-way deal though, and we changed our name slightly, and agreed to sponsor the Under 14,15 and 16 representative teams of the Association," Lionel said.

"The first team has the addition of Greg Byles, formerly of Wests and past player-coach of Revesby Workers.

"We are also likely to get Neil Williams who at present is still negotiating with Avala over a transfer fee.

"On the negative side we will probably lose two players.

"John Wignall may leave, probably to Arncliffe, while Jimmy Zeros is keen to join Sydney Olympic and both players are transfer listed.

"However, the first team is relatively untouched and we are hoping for a good year.

"The junior aspect is the most exciting field, and we have had tremendous response for coaches for the lads.

"Former Canterbury players such as Dennis Yaager and Geoff Campbell have agreed to coach teams, while Vic Dal Forno, himself a former Canterbury lad, will also lend a hand.

"And we have Paul Ankudinoff, father of Sydney Olympic's Greg, as a junior coach.

"All in all it should be a fine year for the club, right through the ranks," Lionel said.

KU-RING-GAI

"We will go for the top if we can," said Ku-ring-gai's Frank Malone.

"Last year was our settling in period, and this year the club must aim higher.

"Our position last year was not terribly good, but we lost so many points in draws that we would have been a lot further up the table if we had picked up some of those," he said.

"We need the killer instinct in the team, and I feel that the younger boys won't be so overawed this year and might be a little more adventurous.

"We have basically the same line up as last year, though we have several additions.

"Former St.George defender Paul Jones has joined us, as has Willie Hamilton, and they should be able to provide an extra bit of backbone.

"Our training camp before the season was an emergency measure, because we have only really had three or four weeks solid training while other teams have been training for months.

"We lack match fitness, but I'm sure once the season gets underway we will be more than ready.

"We showed what we can do in the first half against Croatia, and it was only fitness which led to the big defeat," Frank said.

"With three teams on the North Shore it will be imperative for us to play well and ensure we are the leading club crowd-wise and playing wise," he added.

DIVISION I

ZEMAN RETURNS TO BLACKTOWN

— By Charles Spiteri —

Blacktown United Soccer Club who escaped relegation to second division by a whisker last season is hoping for a big boost in the 80s by the appointment of former Australian international Dave Zeman to coach them this season.

The wheel has turned a full circle for Zeman as it was from this club in 1964 that he moved to the then top side Prague and eventually the Australian team.

In recent years, Zeman has coached West Ryde and West Holroyd in the lower division with reasonable success and at Blacktown he will be backed by long standing soccer club administrators Gordon Spencer and Harry Hoff.

Spencer has been associated with Blacktown for the last 13 years as secretary and Harry has been with the club since 1963 most of the time as president.

In an area where soccer talent is abundant, Blacktown should have little trouble in fielding three strong teams in this year's competition.

One club official said this week: "We have been conducting negotiations for some new players but as yet nothing has been finalised."

With Dave Zeman at the helm, Blacktown United is seeking to consolidate itself in first division by finishing in the upper half of the table.

The club was pretty hard hit by severe injuries throughout last season and the effect of that bad run is still hampering the club as only just before Christmas big Sam Mehalf, the club's top scorer, had to have a knee operation which is certain to keep him out of the game for at least the early part of this year.
year.

Another setback is the departure of top defender Ralph Ramische who has been loaned to Arncliffe for the season.

He has had a good season in 1979 and the club has given him the opportunity to get State League experience.

The club started light training before the New Year but has been training solidly in the past three weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Like most other clubs, Blacktown is still looking for talent which would be given the chance to prove themselves in trials games organised for the coming weeks.

The club was to take part in the pre-season Umbro Shield which has been scheduled to start on Wednesday February 6, but Francis Park will not be available until the end of February and this could cause problems for the organisers of this competition.

SOCCER WORLD

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AMPOL CUP 1980

ROUND 2 WITH LOT OF ACTION

— By Paul James —

After only one round the Ampol Cup has run into weather problems and so there will be several matches re-scheduled within the next week or so.

All last Friday's games were cancelled after a torrential downpour saw most grounds waterlogged.

Four matches were played, however, on the previous Wednesday night, highlighting that Croatia will once again be the "top dogs" of the State League.

Their 4-1 thrashing of Ku-ring-gai after going a goal down showed all their old class despite missing the big names of Abonyi and Sullivan.

This week they play relative unknowns Wollongong and one cannot hold out much hope for the South Coasters.

On Wednesday at the St.George Stadium, Parramatta plays Olympic in an interesting clash.

Parramatta have had a reputation in the past for giant killing, and none could come bigger than former PSL team Olympic.

Olympic, on the other hand, showed they still have the edge of top class company in their win over Manly.

Despite the narrow 1-0 scoreline, mainly due to Manly's excellent goalkeeper Chris Cassetari, Olympic showed plenty of poise and skill in attack, and with time should show all their talent.

Avala, upset losers to new boys North Sydney, will be out to make amends against Melita who started off their campaign with a close 1-1 draw with a rejuvenated Arncliffe.

Avala, winners in an amazing Ampol Cup Final in 1977, will be out to try and emulate that feat.

Since their win they have done very little to make a mark in the State League and this year may be the chance to reverse the trend.

Melita will be determined to pick up two points in the group to try and force their way into their third consecutive final.

Beaten in the last two tries they are hoping the old adage holds true: third time lucky.

North Sydney sprang something of a surprise last week, and with their young, energetic but skilled team they could go even further and cause a few more upsets in the cup.

Arncliffe looked much more positive last week than at any time last year, and this augurs well for fans and management alike who have had enough of the 'battler' tag.

The Yugal-Auburn clash has a predecessor in the Cup, with the two teams having met in the 1963 final, Yugal edging out Auburn 5-3.

These two teams are worlds apart from the earlier sides.

Yugal have faced the 'inevitable drop', while Auburn, after seeming close to a top four birth last year, wilted in the final run.

Now Yugal are out to prove they will be able to come back to State League soccer, while Auburn will be content to toughen up their side for the coming long season.

The Sutherland-Manly clash at St.George next Friday, and the Croatia-Wollongong games should be crowd pleasers.

Sutherland and Manly always seem to have hard battles, though at present it would be hard to see the seasiders causing an upset.

At Seymour Shaw, Ku-ring-gai and Canterbury Marrickville meet, with the North Shore lads keen to wipe last week's big loss out of memory.

Though by no means written off, the loss puts them in a bad position for the Ampol Cup, and another loss here would be the end.

In the last match Bankstown, who fared poorly against Monaro last year take on the Queanbeyanites in both clubs' first match o the year.

Despite the absence - temporary or otherwise - of Giampaolo and Valeri, Monaro should have too much class for the Bankstown outfit.

Overall, plenty of action is guaranteed with teams needing every vital point to assure themselves of quarter final berths.

BOURKE QUITS

Inter Monaro's 1979 captain Alan Bourke hasn't been able to agree on terms with the club and has been placed on the transfer list.

Alan, who is only 26, was reportedly offered a lower signing on fee than last year and refused to return to the club.

The former Sutherland, West Adelaide and Canberra midfielder achieved the highlight of his career last year with Monaro's Grand Final win over Sutherland.

He can be contacted at home after hours on (062) 31 5378

TAA

NSW FEDERATION OFFICIAL PROGRAM

AMPOL CUP

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6:

Parramatta v Olympic	St.George Stadium	7.15pm
Avala v Melita	St.George Stadium	9.00pm
North Sydney v Arncliffe	Seymour Shaw	7.15pm
Yugal v Auburn	Seymour Shaw	9.00pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8:

Sutherland v Manly	St.George Stadium	7.15pm
Croatia v Wollongong	St.George Stadium	9.00pm
Ku-ring-gai v Cant.M'ville	Seymour Shaw	7.15pm
Bankstown v Monaro	Seymour Shaw	9.00pm

NEXT WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Parramatta v Manly	St.George Stadium	7.15pm
Bankstown v Auburn	St.George Stadium	9.00pm
Avala v Arncliffe	Seymour Shaw	7.15pm
Ku-ring-gai v Woll'gong	Seymour Shaw	9.00pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Yugal v Monaro	St.George Stadium	7.15pm
Croatia v Marrickville	St.George Stadium	9.00pm
North Sydney v Melita	Seymour Shaw	7.15pm
Sutherland v Olympic	Seymour Shaw	9.00pm

• Decision about the postponed games later this week; likely date is February 20.

AMPOL SCOREBOARD

MELITA 1(0) — ARNCLIFFE 1(0)

Melita: Bracklow, Carbon (Olson 73m), McDonald, Darvill, Mikas, W. Parker (Babian 73m), J. Morsello, R. Farrugia, Allan, Stoddart, Jones.

Arncliffe: Marsden, R. Ramisch, Smart, Oldham, Ainsley, Luckett, R. Stone, Lee, Leak (Sidey 58m), Montgomery, Tracey.

Goals: 0-1 Leak (58m), 1-1 Babian (83m).
Referee: B. Fowler; **Crowd:** 2,054.

Melita Eagles' touches were all too delicate in this draw with the uncompromising Arncliffe Scots. They left it to replacement Sammy Babian to notch the equaliser just seven minutes from time. Melita were looking a beaten side when coach Atti Abonyi made two vital replacements in the 73rd minute. Arncliffe's defence had the clamps on Melita's swift striker Don Allan, and a new Arncliffe line-up continually took to attack with gusto. The move of the game led to Leak's 58th minute goal for Arncliffe. Ainslie sent Lee off on the wing and Leak met his cross with a full-blooded scoring header.

— K. Gilmour

MANLY 0 — SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1(1)

Manly: Cassetari, Mouttet, Geoghan, Doyle, Townsend, Symons, Roozendaal, Jack, Nawalu, Fox (Burchett 56m), Stuart (Hiscock 88m).

Sydney Olympic: Meier, Ankudinoff, Palmer, Wilson, McIntosh, Laing, Houssini, Eaton, Morris, Kousas (Karaspiros 78m).

Goal: 0-1 Kousas (7m).
Referee: G. Power; **Crowd:** 1,476 (double header); **Caution:** Mouttet.

Olympic returned to State League football quietly but showed more than enough to indicate they will be challenging for top honours. Houssini was impressive in midfield and Kousas, the other new boy, performed well on the wing. The scoreline doesn't reflect Olympic's superiority and, as in past years, it was only the superb goalkeeping of Cassetari that kept the scoreline respectable. Olympic play neat football and look fit, but it will be interesting to see them against a team which forces them to play flat out. Everything about Manly's display indicates that they will again be among the strugglers this year. Their team is composed of fit runners with limited method and skill, something which will not carry them very far.

— R. Dewick

NORTH SYDNEY 2(0) — AVALA 1(0)

North Sydney: Lilli, Walker, J. Bottalico, Miller, Matheson, Yousip, A. Bottalico, Mitchell, Leyden, Ruiz, Delaney.

Avala: Ahrens, Bateman, S. Deller, Barton, Pilovski, Lavin, Patterson (Griffiths 63m), Rnjak, Tilt, Kodor, Karanfilovski.

Goals: 0-1 Walker o.g. (57m), 1-1 A. Bottalico (60m), 2-1 Mitchell (64m).
Referee: A. Boskovic; **Crowd:** 2,054 (double header).

North Sydney deservedly pulled back a goal deficit to record their first Ampol Cup win. Although the game lacked fire, Inter had more polish than their experienced opponents and were prepared to move smartly into attack. Robert Yousip was the midfield playmaker for North Sydney and should have scored after 55 minutes with an easy chance. Two minutes later John Walker turned the ball into his own net and Avala were in the lead. However, Alex Bottalico evened the scores three minutes later, then Brad Mitchell poached the winner with a shot which Ahrens could only parry into the net in a vain attempt to save.

— K. Gilmour

CROATIA 4(1) — KU-RING-GAI 1(1)

Croatia: Watson, A. Kovacic (Trojha 67m), Cagalj, Basic, G. Smith, Dudaric, Mullen, Savor, Coleman, M. Kovacic, Cootes (Muratovic 55m).

Ku-ring-gai: O'Toole, Wheatley, Hogg, P. Jones, Chambers, Robertson, Firrell (Geekey 80m), McGill, Herron, Hamilton, K. Smith.

Goals: 0-1 McGill (17m), 1-1 M. Kovacic (52m), 2-1 Savor (60m), 3-1 Mullen (67m), 4-1 Trojha (83m).
Referee: T. Davies; **Crowd:** 1,476 (double header). **Cautions:** Jones, Firrell; **Expulsions:** Muratovic, Hamilton.

Ku-ring-gai took a shock lead in the 17th minute and then slowed the game down to meet their own pace. Croatia persisted in pushing high balls into the goal area for the first half, but the strong Ku-ring-gai defence lapped up this type of crude attack. Croatia changed tactics at the break and superior speed and use of the flanks quickly had Ku-ring-gai floundering. Once Croatia had gathered rhythm they descended on Ku-ring-gai like an avalanche and with more steadiness as the North Shore lads faded could have doubled the score. Croatia again look one of the favourites for 1980 and they don't appear to have been affected by the loss of either Abonyi or Sullivan. Ku-ring-gai look set for a struggle as some of the older players appear to lack fitness and couldn't last the full 90 minutes.

R. Dewick

JOHNSON RETURNS

— By Charles Spiteri —

Mike Johnson, one of the most dedicated coaches in Sydney soccer returns to the arena after a short lay off with more determination than ever.

As manager, coach and sole selector Johnson will attempt to lead Wollongong to promotion in State League in 1981.

Back to Wollongong is like returning "home" for Mike Johnson, as it was in that city he started his football career in Australia.

Although he took over from Larry Ashbolt just before Christmas, Johnson only started serious training about three weeks ago with almost all of last year's players in training.

The exception is Andy Campbell, a very useful midfielder who could not meet the strict training schedules laid down.

But this has already been offset by the signing of former Wollongong City midfielder John Bingham who will strengthen the United midfield.

Johnson said this week there may be some more additions to the side but not before he can evaluate the talent already available.

To condition the team, Johnson has arranged a series of friendly matches against top clubs including St.George, Auburn, Arncliffe Scots, Avala and a match against the national team.

HARRIS OUT — BROKEN ARM

Former international George Harris last week suffered a fractured arm playing for his new club Blacktown City against St.George with whom he had spent 12 years.

Harris will be out for at least six to eight weeks, a major blow to Blacktown.

The match was the first of the "friendlies" played by PSL clubs in preparation for the season.

In front of an estimated crowd of 200 the two teams played a 3-3 draw.

PHILIPS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

STH.MELBOURNE VOWS NEVER TO SLIP AGAIN

— By Jock Stephen —

You get the feeling of confidence at South Melbourne this year that things are already brighter, and with good reason too.

Manager, Jim Karvass says that two absentees for the past two years, Arthur Xanthopoulos and Billy Rogers, both for business reasons, now back are already match fit for the Ampol Cup games.

The form shown by the younger brigade like Chris Kalafatidis, Alan Davidson, George Christopoulos and Steve Kakantonis is giving coach John Margaritis great heart.

The seasoned campaigners, Frank Munro, George Campbell, Alun Evans Sammy Wright, Bertie Lutton are all showing good form.

Duncan Cumming, Mendo Ristovski plus Stuart Baxter when he returns from overseas will all be available. Peter Laumets looks secure in goal, and that just about covers South Melbourne's talent from last year.

Three signings in Branko Buljevic (ex Heidelberg United), Vince Bannon (ex Frankston City) and young Steve Blair (ex Albion Rovers) will add strength. Three of last year's squad have returned home, Kenny Drakeford and Tony Turner to Britain and John Hansen to Sweden.

The retirement of Mike Pye from South Melbourne came as a surprise.

He is going to Papua, New Guinea on a three-year contract, and don't be surprised if he encourages some youngsters to take up soccer while he is there.

Mike Pye has been presented with a suitably inscribed memento of his six years honourable service to South Melbourne.

Popular coach John Margaritis will be solely responsible for the side, and former Footscray coach Cedo Cirkovic has been appointed coaching co-ordinator of the Metropolitan League side and all the junior teams.

The Middle Park Stadium would have to be one of soccer's best wet weather grounds, so we can look forward to lots of action following on last year's disastrous results.

Sam Papasavas will be president once more, and with Jim Karvess as promotions manager and Nick Sagiakos as secretary a more fruitful season is expected.

Footscray move

Footscray have been negotiating with the Footscray Council and the V.F.L. Footscray club for the Sunday occupation of the Western Oval on Geelong Road, right at West Footscray railway station.

Joe Piciaone, Footscray

At this stage, it is 99% certain that all home Philips League fixtures will be at the Western Oval this year, providing more comfort for patrons.

President and guiding light will once more be Tony Kovac.

A new face to us in Melbourne but well known as a player in Sydney will be new coach Rocco Ille.

Rocco spent five years as a player with Yugal and Pan Hellenic, before returning to Zagreb for two years at Zagreb University.

During this time he also had two years with the Zagreb Soccer Coaches School, duly qualifying for his certificate.

Well known winger in Melbourne, Joe Palinkas has been transferred to Brisbane City, and Andy Ristic is returning to Yugoslavia, leaving two gaps still to be filled.

Footscray claim they have the two best goalkeepers in Melbourne in Boland and Potter.

Regulars Picioane, Jovicic, Vasic, Hazabent, Ilioski, Lujic, Kondarios, Jovanovic, Ollerton and O'Reilly are all available.

Up and coming young players from the juniors and Metropolitan League sides will get the chance with State Junior Vladko Belic likely to do very well.

Ivor Karic, Paul Simic, Lube Talevski and goalkeeper Mike Ciric have shown sufficient form to be given advanced coaching with the top side.

Charlie Hendrie, just arrived from Scotland with a reputation as a striker, has been cleared, and will be watched with interest.

Footscray City have always had a reputation as a ball playing side, and this year should be no different with one exception — they are planning to finish higher up the ladder than in 1979.

Joe Palinkas

BLOW TO HENDERSON

Australia's top star, Tony Henderson, has been ordered to take a complete rest for some five weeks.

Henderson has an acute groin injury on his pelvic bone which, untreated, could turn chronic.

He was examined last week by a specialist and told to lay off soccer at once — but couldn't resist turning out for Australia on Sunday.

Marconi coach Les Scheinflug says that with proper rest and treatment, Henderson should be right for the start of the Philips League season.

The other Marconi casualty, Mark Jankovics is also under treatment for his thigh muscle injury.

However, he is expected to be back in training next week.

Marconi babes

Gary Byrne

Marconi last weekend issued a catch-me-if-you-can warning to other PSL clubs as they defeated Campbelltown City, in Adelaide, 7-0.

The 1979 PSL champions were guests for the opening of Campbelltown's new ground and were given a right royal welcome and treatment, befitting the Australian champions.

Then they proceeded to annihilate the hosts.

Mariani grabbed himself five goals with the others going to Byrne and Tomasic.

The remarkable aspect of the 7-0 was that Marconi were without Socceroos Prskalo, Henderon, Krncevic, Jankovics and Sharne as well as Raskopoulos....

Youngsters such as Drago, Tomasic, Dennis Colusso and Richie Williams proved their worth during the game which according to secretary-manager Milorad Urukalo, demonstrated the depth in Marconi.

The first goal fell after 28 seconds when Bertie Mariani opened his account.

On Sunday Marconi travel interstate again, this time to Melbourne, to meet Croatia-Essendon at 5pm at Olympic Park No.2.

Once again, the Socceroos will be absent — playing next door against Czechoslovakia.

Palinkas in, Echeverria out

Brisbane clubs gear up for '80 PSL season

— From Jim Binnie —

Brisbane City march into the eighties quietly confident that they can carry on where they left off last season.

Critical examination tends to uphold this feeling as they appear to have lost only two of last year's top squad, Echeverria going back to Argentine, and soccer nomad Bobby Campbell continuing his journeys.

Although they will be missed, coach Saftich will have it in his mind that neither could be described as regulars last year so he is really well equipped for the new campaign.

However, it appears the club will not rest on its laurels and one well known face at training is Joe Palinkas, the Footscray flyer, transferred recently.

Nippy little goal poacher Kevin Low has been in Scotland during the close season and it is rumoured there will be two of his compatriots following him back to Australia.

No names as yet.

City, like Lions, hope to play on their own ground this year and are just awaiting planning permission to start on huge improvements that include new grandstand with private boxes.

The squad is being coached by Saftich, the reserve squad by his brother Mauro, and ex NSW and Brisbane City favourite Horst Schneider has been brought back to coach the club's youth squad.

Lions' den

Brisbane Lions' 12-acre complex is a hive of activity every weekend as an army of volunteer workers rally around to aid in ground improvements.

Already the ground has been terraced on three sides giving a capacity of around 5,000.

On the playing side of operations glamour striker Tony Brennan has intimated he wishes to continue his career in the south.

Brennan, an extremely mobile and talented forward should not have to wait long for his wish to come true.

Already Canberra City and Adelaide City have shown interest.

Stephen Hogg, who is enrolled in a Queensland University, would not have been available for Canberra this season and it is good to see an awkward situation being settled amicably by all parties.

Two highly rated New Zealanders have arrived to add their talents to the squad.

Mark McNaughton, a striker from Nelson, has played at an under-21 level with N.Z. and last year notched up 13 goals to be third highest goalgetter in the country.

New Zealand's top scorer Johan Verwey has also become a Lion.

At 6ft. 4 ins. (2 metres) this current international had 16 goals to his credit in 1979.

Coach Carson will be expecting big things from this pair, as goals were not Lions' best department last season.

Jim Hermiston has joined the police force and in so doing lifted a huge load off Lions' board.

Jim, who was entering his fourth year on a visa, now gets permanent residence granted to him and his family.

Jim Hermiston

George Potter

Matt Carson has visited his old club Eagles and come back with another workhorse midfielder in Irishman Gerry Lindsay, who is expected to add a bit of bite to the Lions' team.

Lions' globetrotting youth squad have also returned to the den.

During the close season, three youngsters were sent to Dutch club Feyenoord for three months' intensive coaching.

Reserve goalie Tony Scanlan was in England training with Ipswich and midfielder Clark Anderson was in Singapore with the Australian under-16 team.

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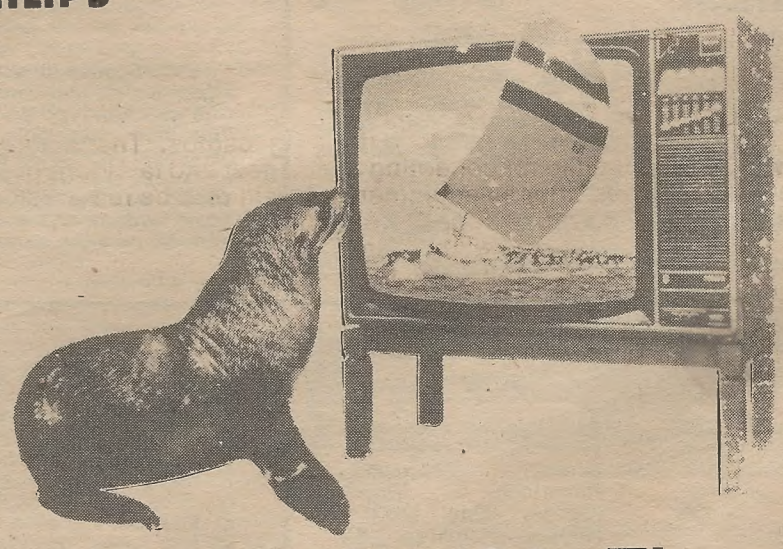

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Australia last Sunday — from left: Woodhouse, Sharne, Henderson, Cumming, Tansey, Perry, Bertogha, Prskalo, Cole, Krncevic, Rooney.

Socceroos executed

THE CZECH ADVENTURE

— By Andrew Dettre —

A superior Czechoslovakia easily beat Australia 5-0 in Sydney; the story should end there.

What every reasonable spectator, fan, player and official must have anticipated did happen: we were outclassed.

And there should be no shame attached: there are lots of European teams who could easily lose 5-0 to this Czechoslovakia.

But there was more to the match than the mere scoreline; the defeat can't be dismissed with a simple "we weren't fit" shrug.

Sure we weren't fit (and why not?) — but we also played some amazingly naive stuff.

Perry, for example, stuck to his instructions of shadowing the great Nehoda with such religious fervor that he would have escorted him to the loo, too; blindly and unquestioningly.

So what did Nehoda do? He led Perry right onto another Australian defender, tying up two men — and creating acres of room for Gajdusek, Masny and Kozak.

Rooney, having a poor game, ran non-stop but fairly aimlessly while Cole felt more uncomfortable in his new role than Paul Newman would in a chorus line.

These shortcomings have little to do with fitness; such tactics would have led to a heavy defeat even if the Socceroos had been bursting with surplus energy.

A third factor that tipped the balance even further against us was anatomy.

Against well built, athletic and tall professionals it seems to be suicidal to field such short players as Rooney, Perry and Nyskohus, not to mention the pint-sized Cumming.

The first half of the match was fairly uneventful; the Czechs, once again, were loafing, probing the massed Socceroo defence where occasionally nine or even 10 players retreated with a siege mentality.

And yet, the first chance fell to Australia when in the 33rd minute Henderson, almost in the goalmouth, slipped as he was trying to hook a fairly easy shot into the net.

But things changed dramatically after the interval: Czechoslovakia went into a higher gear.

In the 46th minute Masny, replacing the strangely quiet Vizek, with his first touch of the ball, flicked home a perfect pass from Kozak from close range — 1-0.

Eleven minutes later the floodgates were opening. Nehoda, taking careful aim, lobbed the ball onto the crossbar and Gajdusek tapped home the rebound—2-0.

The Australian defence was now in shambles: both their close marking and zonal defence was breaking down.

In the 64th minute a swift one-two let Masny through in the middle and he easily beat the advancing Woodhouse for 3-0.

The finale brought two more goals.

In the 84th minute Kroupa replaced the injured Masny and, again with the very first touch, made it 4-0.

The ball was played in from the right, Kroupa calmly chested it down and then volleyed it low into the corner.

As if a formal coup de grace were needed, the Czechs decided to make it 5-0.

Kozak, who was the chief choreographer of most of their moves, played yet another one-two with Kroupa and then sent a vicious low shot into the corner.

As a unit, the Socceroos were disappointing; there was little cohesion and understanding between the players.

Individually, however, Henderson, Krncevic, Prskalo and Woodhouse performed fairly well.

The Czechs, after a very slow start, gave an attractive, classic display — about half of their true ability, according to coach Joe Venglos. (Who wants to see the other half after 5-0?)

Kozak was their playmaker but the elusive Masny and the extremely clever and skilled Nehoda did most of the damage up front.

Fullback Barmos and that placid giant, Ondrus showed their class; Panenka, good as he was, failed to live up to his reputation as one of Europe's best midfielders.

AUSTRALIA: Woodhouse, Perry, Bertogna, Prskalo, Tansey, Henderson (Christopoulos 71m), Rooney (Campbell 85m), Cole (J. Nyskohus 57m), Cumming (O'Connor 68m), Krncevic, Sharne.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Netolicka, Barmos, Jurkemik (Fiala 64m),Ondrus, Gogh, Kozak, Stambachr, Panenka, Vizek (Masny 46m., Kroupa 83m), Nehoda, Gajdusek.

Goals: 0-1 Masny (46m), 0-2 Gajdusek (57m), 0-3 Masny (64m), 0-4 Kroupa (84m), 0-5 Kozak (89m).
Referee: Tony Boskovic;
Crows: 14,368.

Eddie Krncevic in action last week.

NEWCASTLE BLITZ SHOCKS GUESTS

— By Andrew Dettre

Newcastle United under the cover-name of "Northern NSW" (as Czechoslovakia refused to face a club side) put on one of their finest performances last week.

They lost the match 5-3 but won countless new friends with their courageous, devil-may-care stance.

The Czech cracks had never for a moment expected this type of spirited opposition, after their carefree saunter in Canberra against the Socceroos.

Coach Joe Venglos, in the best tradition of all coaches, wanted to give his reserves a run in Newcastle and started the match without some of his aces such as Ondrus, Nehoda and Vizek.

Newcastle couldn't have cared less about the names: they swung into action.

Brilliantly organised from the rear by ex-Leeds man Paul Reaney, they went into the lead in the 18th minute.

Reaney lofted a ball to Summerscales whose backheader found Jones; a rapid-fire volley and it was 1-0.

Then Reaney showed his class at the other end, too: Kroupa lobbed a ball towards the empty Newcastle goal with Dando beaten but Reaney headed clear.

In the 27th minute the Czechs received their second jolt. Tredinnick's corner was backheaded — again — his time by Trenter and there was Jones lurking, heading home from a close range.

The patient, slow build-up of the Czechs continued and brought some relief: in the 38th minute, after some clever interpassing, Kroupa found the corner with a placement from 12 metres.

That, the good old Newcastle fans sighed, was the end of the picnic; the European champions would now take over.

But not just yet: Newcastle was to score again, the very best goal of the match.

Curran's brilliant 30-metre pass dropped in front of Tredinnick who took it on the run, sped past his fullback and sent in a hard, low cross for Senkalski to volley it into the corner with the tiniest flick of his ankle.

But then, Venglos unleashed his benched stars and two minutes after the start of the second half it was a different Czechoslovakia.

Vizek was racing inside the penalty box when Summerscales brought him down — and Dobias smashed the penalty under the roof for 2-3.

More and more the class of the Czechs emerged — against the tiring Novocastrians.

In the 68th minute the brilliant Nehoda made it 3-3 with one of the cleverest goal one could wish to see.

He received a square pass from the wing, some 14 metres from the goal and turning and twisting on a sixpence, sold three quick dummies as lunging legs zoomed past him.

Then, having the ball still intact at his foot, he nonchalantly curled it past Dando — a goal worthy of a Pele or Cruyff.

Twelve minutes later it was Nehoda again who put on a great solo: he burst through the centre, leaving prostrate fallen bodies in his wake but stumbled into the goalie in his cheeky bid to round him instead of simply pushing the ball home.

The doomsday weather was appropriate: the Czechs were now in control.

In the 81st minute a defensible blunder let Masny through to score a painfully simple ball and seven minutes later it was Masny again who finished a good attack from the right to make it 5-3.

Northern NSW (Newcastle Utd.): Dando, Reaney, Summerscales, Drinkwater, Bertogna, Trenter (McClelland 46m), Heys, Jones, Senkalski (Cowburn 72m), Curran, Tredinnick.

Czechoslovakia: Hruska (Netolicka 61m), Dobias, Kozak, Jurkemik (Nehoda 46m), Vojacek (Ondrus 46m), Jarusek (Gogh 83m), Stambachr (Vizek 46m), Fiala, Kroupa, Masny, Gajdusek.

Goals: 1-0 Jones (18m), 2-0 Jones (27m), 2-1 Kroupa (38m), 3-1 Senkalski (41m), 3-2 Dobias (47m.,pen.), 3-3 Nehoda (68m), 3-4 Masny (81m), 3-5 Masny (88m).
Referee: P. Rampley (NSW).
Crowd: 6,000.

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BOOM WITH PROBLEMS IN EDGY STH STH. AFRICA

—From Alan Fouche in Johannesburg—

Multi-racial soccer is two years old in South Africa, the land of apartheid — and the game is at a stage as explosive as the country's racial situation generally.

Top clubs from the previously separate black and white national leagues came together at the end of 1977 to form a multi-racial league hailed immediately as the biggest breakthrough in the code's history.

But the experiment is in danger of turning sour, bedevilled by South Africa's racial tensions.

The reason for this is simple: crowd violence, the bugbear of administrators the world over, has reached nightmare proportions, with bottle-throwing, stone-throwing and attacks on referees, fans and players commonplace.

Many officials have quit the game in fear of their lives in a country where such ugly situations are further inflamed by racial bitterness.

Players and spectators are fully integrated, with white players appearing for "black" clubs and vice versa.

But despite such integration, all efforts have failed to erase the specific "white" or "black" identities of clubs - much as Australian administrators have had difficulty overcoming ethnic tags.

The result has been that top black clubs, with armies of up to 30,000 fanatical supporters, are involved in a struggle against equally clearly defined white teams.

The white clubs, with far less support to start with, have found their fans dwindling rapidly as violence on and off the field has earned the new league a nightmare reputation.

Many blacks, after a week of frustration in their role as the white man's underlings in every walk of life, find their only release for their pent-up emotions in the stands on Saturdays.

This anger, which once senses constantly bubbling, can erupt even when black is pitted against black - as happened in one match which has become notorious here.

Aware of the intense rivalry between the two clubs, Orlando Pirates and Kaizer Chiefs, both of which have huge support in Soweto, the league invited English referee Alan Robinson to handle the fixture to avoid even a suggestion of biased refereeing.

Robinson, on a three-week coaching tour of South Africa, faced a cauldron packed with 40,000 partisan fans - in a ground with an official capacity of 35,000.

Robinson takes up the story of events which followed a controversial offside decision:

"I was amazed to see 50 to 60 people running towards me brandishing knives and bottles.

"Despite prompt action by security men, I was caught by the hair and pulled towards a long knife, held by an assailant. Fortunately the weapon was knocked out of his hand just before he could plunge it into me."

The result of this was an after-the-match heart attack which put Robinson out of the game.

In other incidents, a goalkeeper was rushed to hospital with serious kidney injuries after he was attacked at the end of a match and an Indian team's centre forward was KO'd by a flying brick.

Family groups have almost disappeared from the stands, as police and officials seem helpless to deal with the growing tide of violence.

Yet there is also much to be said on the credit side for the league.

In a country of racial tensions and hatred, the mere fact of its existence has provided a ray of hope that co-operation may still stave off a confrontation that no one here talks about — but everyone fears.

Certainly, soccer itself has benefited as far as standards of play go.

The remarkable ball-juggling talents and athletic skills of black players have been harnessed by European and South American coaches to produce a uniquely exciting blend.

And the dedication of black supporters is almost incredible. Recently 5,000 sat hopefully waiting for a match to start in drenching rain at Soweto's Orlando Stadium - even after the match had been officially called off and the field was one huge pool of water.

The faithful just could not believe that their beloved team would not appear.....

Some weeks ago, South Africa's Cup final was held at Johannesburg's Rand Stadium - and the draw provided a dream final, with the top black side, Kaizer Chiefs, set for a showdown with Highlands Park, the glamour team among whites.

Non-stop rain all day - and live TV coverage of the entire match nationally - could not prevent 35,000 dedicated fans, nearly all black, huddling in open stands for the match.

Lamented Geoff Waid, a spokesman for the brewery which put up a R70,000 (about $75,000) sponsorship for the trophy: "Every ticket was sold long before the match. If we'd had an adequate ground available, I've no doubt we'd have got 100,000 there."

With rugby union paramount among sports for South Africa's Afrikaner rulers, soccer has been left largely out in the cold.

But fortunately facilities here are already far better than in Australia, where soccer has been neglected to an even greater extent in this regard, and a number of grounds capable of holding up to 35,000 people are available.

The final - a 3-3 draw after extra time - produced a spectacle as fine as any I have ever seen, with skills of a level which would put the PSL to shame.

With soccer nearing the status of a religion among South Africa's blacks, the potential for the future is unlimited.

Soccer provides one of the very few ways for a black man to achieve glamour, status and wealth - and almost every barefooted urchin in the country sees himself as an aspiring Pele.

The decisive factor in how far this bright future is realised is, sadly, international politics. Without readmission to FIFA, South Africa will be denied the chance of the international competition which the game desperately needs.

And without radical changes in South African society as a whole, such recognition will remain a pipedream.

Under heavy world pressure, the Government has certainly thawed its cold war attitude towards mixed sport, which only a few years ago was totally banned in any form.

But the tensions of everyday life here are so great that even in soccer, they have been reflected in the split between black and white clubs, and the friction between supporters of different races.

When schools, buses and trains are rigidly segregated, once-a-week multi-racial gatherings to play football have a strange air of unreality.

In my train going to work this week was a young black woman with her daughter of about five. Both sat quietly in a corner of the "white" coach, the black section of the train being filled.

Suddenly the conductor spotted the pair - and immediately ordered them to move from the white carriage to their own, humiliating them in as public a setting as possible.

Yet in this schizophrenic society, the same woman and child would have been able to sit alongside whites perfectly legally at a football match.....

Contact between the races under apartheid has been almost eliminated except in the workplace, with the result that few whites follow their teams into black areas.

Until recently, it was illegal to do so without a special permit, a restriction now lifted by the Government.

But an indication of the fear and mistrust which exists is the minute number of whites who do attend matches in areas such as Soweto, the huge black city sprawling near Johannesburg.

At the last game I attended there, the crowd was about 25,000 — and only about 50 were white.

The intense anti-white atmosphere, the frightening roar which greeted the home side's every move, and the army of armed security men and dogs patrolling behind the barbed wire fences were more reminiscent of a political meeting in Iran than a football match.

Soccer's only hope of avoiding catastrophe is to find a way to channel this kind of fanaticism into less dangerous forms.

Few dare predict what the future holds. Already much South African talent is being snapped up by the American League, and idols such a Jomo Sono and Pule "Ace" Ntsolengoe - last year voted one of the top six midfielders in the US - have been lost to the local scene for much of the year.

This talent drain, combined with racial problems, cloud the whole future of the professional game.

The pessimists believe the league is doomed to flounder on the rock of apartheid; the optimists here hail it as one of the first breakthroughs on the road to a sane society.

For the sake of the whole country, I hope the optimists are right.

Le Fevre resting

Brian Le Fevre, the popular secretary general of the ASF, spent three days in a Sydney hospital this week.

Le Fevre needed treatment for an inflammation of membrane tissues between discs on his spinal cord.

He will spend a few days at home resting before returning to his office, probably next Monday.

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Even "little brother" has fully pro set-up

— By Andrew Dettre —

A fulltime staff of 10 people.. spacious offices on New York's Seventh Avenue next to the Sheraton Hotel...an annual club membership fee of $25,000...

...these are some of the physical characteristics of the American Soccer League (ASL), the much older yet lesser known brother of the more glamorous NASL (Cosmos etc.)

Organised as far back as 1917, it is now a "parallel" League to the NASL; in many ways its rival.

Yet, in 1978, its average match attendance was only 2,981 which, at $3.50 (about $A3.15) a ticket, hardly seems to represent big business.

But the ASL is confident that, with its patient build-up of management, marketing and franchises, it can rival the NASL within a few years.

Senior executive Otto Radich, a native of Hungary, is the man who actually runs the show as the Commissioner is often just a figure-head.

The basic principle of the ASL clubs is the same as that of the NASL; all clubs are run by corporations or individuals on a franchise system, not by club committees.

"The financial situation is improving gradually," Radich told me in his office.

"Several clubs will reach break-even point and some will start to show profit in the next few years.

"Until then, the corporations or individuals who own the clubs just have to keep funding them from their own resources.

"Of course, the losses are tax deductible. When a corporation owns a team and they themselves make money, they can completely write off their soccer losses."

Certainly an interesting proposition — and one which should be studied very thoroughly in Australia.

Radich, a heavy-set, jovial man of immense soccer knowledge and background, admits that NASL clubs are better funded than his ASL outfits.

"The NASL went after sponsors more aggressively — something we are going to do now, too.

"But there is a basic difference in the philosphy of the two organisations: we believe we'll make it, perhaps slower but certainly much cheaper.

"The ASL is more community-oriented. We settle in medium size cities where you can run teams less expensively than in major cities.

"But we won't abandon big cities, either. In two years time our New York Apollos will play in the superb O'Shea Stadium, every bit as good as the Giants Stadium."

New York Apollos in 1978 averaged less than 4,000 spectators at their matches, some one tenth of the Cosmos average.

The other New York team, the Eagles, did even worse, with 1288 being their 1978 average.

How can these two take on Cosmos?

"There is room for Cosmos and our two teams in New York," says Radich.

"In 1979 we increased the size of our league and now extend to California.

"Sure we lose money — but the NASL loses much more...."

In one respect the endeavours of the ASL sound more sincere; they want to present American soccer.

They allow only five imported players per team to be registered.

Both Leagues have made the mistake of importing a lot of sub-standard players, mainly from Britain, whose ability was not much better than the locals.

Yet, of the players who appeared in ASL teams in 1978 only 54 were born in the USA and 169 elsewhere, mainly Britain, Yugoslavia and Latin America.

Alan Ball finds an attractive spot to give an autograph to a Vancouver Whitecaps fan.

Most of the coaches are foreigners, too — two of them well known to Sydney fans: Bob Ridley, ex-APIA, is with California Sunshine and Raul Carrizo, ex-Marconi, is player-coach of the Las Vegas Seagulls.

Even the club presidents — most of them owners or co-owners of the franchises — have ethnic backgrounds, being either first or second generation settlers: Janosi, Celeste, Stoppenhagen, Mevo, Nordskog, Curanaj, Ehrlich, Andreotti...

Radich admits that the standard in the USA is still rather poor though improving.

"Even Cosmos can't be compared to good European sides, let alone the others," he says.

"Of the 800 players in the NASL and ASL, no more than 20% could make money out of soccer in Europe and South America.

"The British influence is still too strong: the majority of our players are free transfer guys from the 3rd and 4th divisions of England.

"There is just no way that, bunched into teams, these will excite anybody.

"We have to concentrate on improving the standard of the game and providing less hoopla and razzamatazz.

"I don't think there is too much point in attracting people to the stadiums with advertising, free tickets and other means if they don't like what they see and won't come back.

"We will not succeed against the other top pro sports until we provide soccer at the highest possible level.

"The American public will not take third and fourth rate stuff for ever."

Surprisingly, players even in the more modest ASL are fairly well paid as fulltime professionals.

They receive an average monthly salary of $1,035 which, with perks (car, apartment rental, bonus) goes up to $1,366.

Contracts are seasonal, running till the end of September though some players are paid the year round.

Many simply return to their native country after September and play there, others stay in the USA and earn their wages at indoor soccer.

Of course, some stars earn a lot more than the average: the Brazilian Edu, the Portuguese Eusebio, the Peruvian Mifflin and now the recently defected Hungarian goalie Toth make close to $1,000 a week.

Most ASL clubs are run on tight economies. For instance, player salaries and bonuses are about $100,000 of a total budget of $350,000.

Coaches earn $18,000, managers $20,000, assistant coaches and trainers between $3,000 and $5,000; the next big item is stadium rental averaging $20,000.

So far, so good: these costs are not too much above the level of our PSL clubs.

But the revenues are.

A club averaging 4,000 attendance can expect $200,000 from gate receipts, $56,000 from ground concessions; programs, merchandising and other sources bring another $35,000 for a total close to $300,000.

If the average crowds can be pushed up to 5,000, the revenue rises to $360,000 — break even point.

So the area where our Australian PSL clubs differ is not so much in the expenditure but in the revenue.

• Continued next week.

TEAMS IN THE NASL:

Toronto Blizzard
Rochester Lancers
New York Cosmos
Washington Diplomats
Minnesota Kicks
Tulsa Roughnecks
Atlanta Chiefs
Dallas Tornado
Vancouver Whitecaps
Seattle Sounders
Portland Timbers
Los Angeles Aztecs
New England Tea Men
Philadelphia Fury
Tampa Bay Rowdies
Ft.Lauderdale Strikers
Detroit Express
Chicago Sting
Memphis Rogues
Houston Hurricane
Edmonton Drillers
San Jose Earthquakes
California Surf
San Diego Sockers

TEAMS IN THE ASL:

Cleveland Cobras
Columbus Magic
New Jersey Americans
New York Apollo
New York Eagles
Pennsylvania Stoners
California Sunshine
Indianapolis Daredevils
Las Vegas Seagulls
Los Angeles Skyhawks
Sacramento Gold

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Part Two

OR SO THEY SAY...

"Unprepared teams, irrespective of for what reason, are inexcusable as far as the paying public is concerned. The Australia versus Czechoslovakia series has received top billing in soccer's centenary year yet it is universally stated 'we are not ready for the Czechs.' (John Warren in the Daily Telegraph, February 2, Saturday.)

★ ★ ★

"Having denigrated his team to the point where it went into last Sunday's game totally lacking in confidence, Gutendorf now has to inspire it...he may have lost the players' confidence to the point where they will no longer respond..." (Australian, Sat. Feb.2).

★ ★ ★

"...I did it...to protect my players from having too high expectations. It would have been foolish to say 'Australia will beat Czechoslovakia...' (Gutendorf in the Herald, Sat. Feb.2).

★ ★ ★

"The Czechs made all their goals look easy, and it was not the physical condition of the Australians which let them down.

Rather the Australians lacked discipline and concentration — and they were punished for their lapses." (Daily Telegraph, Feb.4, Monday.)

★ ★ ★

"However hard it is for us to accept, the Czechs merely emphasised how far we have to go in world soccer. Possibly the most interesting feature of the match for me was that seven of the Czech squad trained for an hour — immediately after the match." (John Warren, Telegraph, Feb.4, Monday).

★ ★ ★

"Once again Australian coach Rudi Gutendorf blamed a lack of fitness for contributing to the loss, although, as he said: "They are too good for us, every player is better by far. It could have been 9-0 or 10-0 if we had not played so well in the first half." (Herald, Feb.4, Monday.)

★ ★ ★

Stan at Penrith

Former APIA and Australian International fullback Stan Ackerley has taken on the massive challenge of rebuilding the former Nepean team now under a new name, Penrith United.

Stan who had successful coaching stints with Toongabbie (now Blacktown City) and Northern District (Gladesville Hornsby) will attempt to carry out the good work started by Denis Adrigan in the district.

However, he will find very few members of the team which Denis Adrigan painstakingly blended into a respectable side as many players have migrated to neighbouring clubs.

The top talent in that Nepean side was captured by the newly promoted PSL club Blacktown City and these include top striker Ian Hunter, midfielder Don Campbell, centrebacks Tony Rasmussen and Neil Manning, goalkeeper Michael Harris and most likely the very talented but sometimes erratic Billy Hood.

In addition, winger Stan Lemonczyk has moved to Polonia and Robbie Yousiph returned to North Sydney Inter.

Apart from having new players, Penrith also have a new team of management, as none of last year's committee stood for re-election.

The new team is lead by president Derek Hunter.

With the signing of these youngsters, Blacktown City is hoping to get a big slice of support from the Penrith district and it is understood the club will be promoting their home matches in the area.

Penrith United will be sponsored by big brother, the Penrith Rugby League Club to the tune of $30,000 over a period of three years.

— C. Spiteri

LEO OUT

Leo Baumgartner last week resigned as assistant to Rudi Gutendorf with the national team.

He notified ASF secretary Brian Le Fevre of his decision.

It is believed that Gutendorf and Baumgartner had a clash in Canberra before the first international against Czechoslovakia.

Baumgartner has not yet been replaced.

Gutendorf will recommend a suitable assistance but the ASF must endorse it.

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(subsection of the German Concordia social club in Stanmore) seek the services of

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WORLD NEWS

Yugoslavia tops European lists

Two of the best authorities agree: Yugoslavia was the top European soccer team last season.

Both "France Football" of Paris and "World Soccer" of London have placed the Yugos at the top of the chart.

The results table is compiled by awarding two points for a win and one for a draw, then expressing the total points gained as a percentage of the total points played for.

Where the percentage succes is the same, goals difference counts in the final placings.

It has to be done this way, because for example, the USSR played fourteen games while many other countries took part in only five games.

West Germany probably deserve second place, improving under Jupp Derwall after a disastrous World Cup in 1978 and a bit of a struggle at first.

Now Derwall is riding high, unbeaten in twelve games since the World Cup and clearly in command.

France are obviously too high in third place, benefiting from an easy program that included two games against the United State, won 6-0 and 3-0 and a game against Luxemburg.

Their only moderately difficult fixture was against Czechoslovakia in Bratislava and they lost there to crash out of the European trail.

Holland did very well to qualify for Italy in a tough group with East Germany and Poland, clinching their place at the last gasp with a 3-2 win in Leipzig after being two down at one stage.

	P	W	D	L	For	Against	%
Yugoslavia	6	6	0	0	18	4	100.0
West Germany	9	7	2	0	20	5	88.8
France	6	5	0	1	17	4	83.3
Austria	8	5	3	0	16	7	81.2
England	10	7	2	1	23	6	80.0
Poland	11	7	3	1	21	5	77.2
Belgium	7	4	2	1	10	4	71.4
Italy	5	3	1	1	9	6	70.0
C'slovakia	9	6	0	3	20	9	66.6
Turkey	7	4	1	2	7	5	64.2
Holland	8	4	2	2	12	8	62.5
USSR	14	6	4	4	21	15	57.1
Hungary	8	3	3	2	12	10	56.2
East Germany	12	5	2	5	18	15	50.0
Portugal	5	2	1	2	6	6	50.0
Wales	8	3	2	3	9	10	50.0
Denmark	9	3	2	4	11	11	44.4
Rumania	9	2	3	4	11	13	38.8
Sweden	12	3	3	6	13	15	37.5
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	7	37.5
Eire	10	3	1	6	12	13	35.0
Bulgaria	10	3	1	6	8	16	35.0
Spain	6	1	2	3	7	9	33.3
Finland	9	1	4	4	6	11	33.3
Scotland	9	2	2	5	6	16	33.3
N.Ireland	8	2	1	5	5	17	31.2
Switzerland	7	2	0	5	6	15	28.5
Norway	7	1	0	6	4	16	14.2
Malta	5	0	1	4	2	10	10.0
Cyprus	5	0	1	4	2	14	10.0
Luxemburg	5	0	1	4	1	14	10.0
Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	16	0.0

NB. Ruled out because did not play a minimum of games.

Israel	2	1	0	1	4	2

Francis buys a team...

Last year Nottingham Forest paid $2,000,000 to Birmingham for Trevor Francis.

Since then Birmingham have signed:

- Alan Curbishley, West Ham, for $450,000;
- Jeff Wealands, Hull City, $70,000;
- Terry Lees, Stoke, $110,000;
- Colin Todd, Everton, $500,000;
- Tony Evans, Cardiff, $240,000;
- Archie Gemmill, Nottingham, $300,000.
- Willie Johnstone, Whitecaps Vancouver, $30,000 (on loan);
- Frank Worthington, Bolton, $300,000.

This roughly adds up to $2,000,000.

Good as Francis may be, Birmingham seems to have made an excellent deal.

Hopefuls but not all young

The Italian sports weekly "Guerin Sportivo" has produced a novel idea: based on the votes of their correspondents they have selected Europe's team of the future, naming only "young hopefuls."

This is their team: Arconada (Spain) - McGrain (Scotland), Giu (Italy), Forster (W.Germany), Fr.Baresi (Italy) - Blagojevic (Yugoslavia), Brady (Nth.Ireland), Woodcock (England), Tahamata (Holland), Birtles (England(, Cunningham (England).

Blagojevic recently toured Australia with Red Star.

Menotti picks "new" Argentina

Argentine national team coach Cesar Menotti released a list of 28 players with which he will start training in March for the next World Cup finals — and these players cannot be transferred to foreign clubs during 1980.

With last year's experimental stage apparently over, Menotti has, to the relief of every Argentine fan, relied on players who have shown their value on the international field, including 10 of the 1978 World Cup squad — seven who lined up in the final — eight from last year's Junior World Cup-winning squad and 10 other internationals who proved their skill during either last year's tours abroad, the South American championship or before.

Also predictably, non-first division Talleres (Cordoba) has the biggest representation of six players, followed by first division champions River Plate and Independiente with five each.

In fact, Menotti has relied too much on the old guard — including World Cup men such as winger Ortiz and goalkeeper Baley who have since dropped out of first division football and defender Olguin who has not played for some time as he is in conflict with this club — but he has again found no room for River Plate's key midfielder — and organiser — of many of their victories, Norberto Alonso who was a late choice (under pressure) for the 1978 World Cup.

The reason may be found in the disagreement coach and player had during the last World Cup over why he was continually left out and not because he did not fit into the team as he has shown that he does.

The squad is Fillol (goal), Passarella, Luque, Ramon Diaz and Ortiz (River Plate), Baley (goal), Villaverde, Fren, Bochini and Outes (Independiente), Olguin and Rinaldi (San Lorenzo), Maradona and Carabelli (Argentinos Juniors), Simon and Gallego (Newells's Old Boys), Van Tuyne (Rosario Central), Barbas and Calderon (Racing), Ischia and Escudero (Velez Sarsfield), Oviedo, Tarantini, Ocano, Valencia, Bravo and Bocanelli (Talleres) and Hernandez (Estudiantes de La Plata).

It was Argentina's other team — picked by Menotti during the same week for the South American Olympic qualifying tournament in Colombia in January — which raised eyebrows.

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OVERSEAS BRIEFS

- *The Czechoslovak Olympic team is currently touring Central and South America.*

□ □ □

- *That heady feeling of power.... Contradicting earlier hints, FIFA president Joao Havelange has announced that he would re-nominate again in 1982 for the office.*

□ □ □

- *Poland will play Italy on April 19 in Rome or in Milan.*

□ □ □

- *Igor Netto, one of the all-time greats of Soviet Soccer, has just celebrated his 50th birthday.*

□ □ □

- *Argentina will visit Europe again in 1980. Their program: May 13 against England (London), May 16 Sweden (Stockholm), May 21 Austria (Vienna). Uruguay will make a European tour in March, playing in Italy, Luxemburg, Belgium, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.*

□ □ □

- *Former Russian goalkeeper star Lev Yachin will hold a special school for goalies in Sweden this year.*

□ □ □

- *Some players hardly make news as they stay with one club all their career. The British record holders: Dickinson (Portsmouth) 764 matches, Sproston (Port Vale) 761, Trollope (Swindon) 756, Paine (Southampton) 713, Harris (Chelsea) 641, Callaghan (Liverpool) 640, Jackie Charlton (Leeds) and Shaw (Sheffield Utd.) 629. Harris is still playing.*

□ □ □

- *Alan Simonsen is unhappy in Barcelona. He says he cannot produce his best under the "strange conditions." Says Simonsen: "West German soccer is tough; the Spanish is just brutal." Hamburg is interested to "repatriate" the little Dane.*

□ □ □

- *Former West German Jurgen Grabowski, 35, will retire in May and his club, Eintracht Frankfurt, will stage an all-star benefit match for him.*

□ □ □

- *A big swap is on the way in Italy: Juventus stars Zoff, Virdis and Cuccureddu and Cagliari's Corti and Casagrande may chance clubs.*

□ □ □

- *It's all really getting out of hand in Britain: Derby, faring very poorly, have offered $900,000 for the almost unknown striker of Cambridge United, Alan Biley. Yet the clubs are reluctant to spend $80,000 on having underground heating installed to make their traditionally waterlogged pitches made playable....(Derby included.)*

□ □ □

- *Dennis Tueart, released by Cosmos, will rejoin his former club, Manchester City.*

□ □ □

- *Like father, like son....Former star Gianpiero Boniperti's offspring has been selected in Italy's junior national team.*

□ □ □

- *Trapattoni, coach of Juventus, has offered to resign because of the recent poor results of his team — but at the request of the players, has withdrawn his notice.*

□ □ □

- *Juan Carlos Heredia has left Barcelona and returned to his native Argentina, after sharp differences with coach Rife.*

□ □ □

- *Barcelona have gone cold on the idea of signing Kevin Keegan. "We are not keen on tired over-worked stars," said a director.*

□ □ □

- *Malcolm Allison, the Manchester City boss, shocked Fourth Division club Walsall when he offered them $600,000 for their striker Don Penn. Then Walsall shocked Allison by rejecting this staggering offer.*

□ □ □

- *David Fairclough wants to leave Liverpool because he is sick of waiting for a chance to become a permanent first team member.*

□ □ □

- *You won't believe it but it's true: Brazil has formed its first ever Soccer Association. Until now no separate organisation existed and soccer belonged, together with other sports, to the Brazilian Sports Confederation.*

□ □ □

- *Gyula Lorant, the ex-patriate Hungarian coach, has been fined 25,000 DM for having assaulted last may, a TV technician. His club, Schalke, also dismissed him.*

□ □ □

- *Mike Smith, manager of third division Hull City, put eight of his players on the transfer list last week.*

□ □ □

- *Sepp Maier, the retired West German goalkeeper, will have his farewell match on June 3 when Bayern Munchen plays the national team in Munich.*

□ □ □

- *The Italian Federation has ordered an investigation into the recent Roma v Milan match (4-0) because several players might have been bribed to fix the result and influence the Pools dividends.*

□ □ □

- *Ernst Ocwirk, one of the all-time greats of Austrian soccer, died after a long illness at the age of 54. Ocwirk played 62 times for Austria and captained the FIFA team against Britain.*

□ □ □

- *Hungary's Ferencvaros is continuing its excellent South American tour: they beat Argentine champions River Plate 1-0 despite the presence of six world champions in the Buenos Aires team.*

□ □ □

- *Hungarian champions Ujpest, now in Japan, have played a 0-0 with Japan in Tokyo. The two teams will meet five more times.*

□ □ □

- *Two Torino stars had a brawl at a training session and Graziani literally knocked out Patricio Sala. Next Sunday they both played in the team.....*

□ □ □